

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 NSCE-00 DPW-01 IO-13 OMB-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 AID-20 RSR-01 IGA-02

EA-11 /155 W

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R 150756Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 439

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSN NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ISLAMABAD 6544

SENATOR PERCY REQUESTS COPIES BE PASSED TO DR. KISSINGER
AND TO SCOTT COHEN, SENATOR'S OFFICE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, IR, UR, IN, BG, US, AF

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION BETWEEN SENATOR PERCY AND PAK MINSTATE
ON REGIONAL ISSUES

SUMMARY: AZIZ AHMED EXPRESSED HOPE FOR IMPORTANT PROGRESS
IN FORTHCOMING INDO-PAK TALKS, SUBJECT TO UNDERSTANDING
ATTITUDE OF SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN. THERE WAS GOOD PROS-
PECT FOR MOVING TOWARD NORMALIZATION WITH INDIA IF POW
ISSUE COULD BE RESOLVED. AHMED EXPRESSED HIS USUAL
CONCERNS REGARDING SOVIET INTENTIONS TO DOMINATE PERSIAN
GULF/SOUTHERN ASIAN REGION, EXEMPLIFIED MOST RECENTLY
PERHAPS BY AFGHAN COUP. HE THOUGHT USG HAD NOT FULLY
APPRECIATED DIMENSION OF SOVIET THREAT IN THIS REGION AND
APPEALED FOR SYMPATHETIC US VIEW OF PAKISTAN'S DESIRE
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TO ACHIEVE AN ADEQUATE DETERRENT, DEFENSIVE MILITARY

POSTURE. END SUMMARY.

1. SENATOR PERCY, ACCOMPANIED BY CHARGE, MET WITH AZIZ AHMED, GOP MINISTER STATE FOR DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS, FOR ONE-HOUR TALK AUGUST 13 BEFORE LUNCHEON GIVEN BY AHMED IN PERCY'S HONOR. NOTING THAT HE HAD BEEN IN KABUL AND WOULD BE GOING ON TO DELHI, PERCY SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO GET BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF PROBLEMS IN THE AREA. HE INVITED AHMED TO REVIEW HIS CONCERNS.

2. POWS. AHMED SAID INDIANS AND PAKS HAD COME PRETTY CLOSE TO AGREEMENT IN THEIR TALKS HERE LAST MONTH, BUT INDIAN SIDE FELT NEED TO CONSULT BDG AND WELL AS GOI. HE LOOKED FORWARD WITH HOPE TO RESUMPTION OF TALKS IN DELHI AUGUST 18. (AHMED WILL AGAIN HEAD PAK DEL.) MAJOR OBSTACLE WAS MUJIB'S PLAN TO HOLD TRIALS. AHMED HAD TOLD INDIANS LAST MONTH THERE SEEMED TO BE NO SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC PRESSURE ON MUJIB TO HOLD TRIALS, AND IF TRIALS HELD IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO METE OUT JUSTICE IN PREJUDICED BANGLADESH CLIMATE. TRIALS BY BDG WOULD RESULT IN TRIALS OF BENGALLEES BY GOP. AHMED RECOUNTED EFFORT TO SKIRT POW ISSUE BY PROPOSAL TO INDIANS THAT ALL DETAINEES EXCEPT FIXED SMALL NUMBER BE REPATRIATED BY GOI AND GOP, WHICH COULD LEAD TO GOP ACQUIESCENCE IN BANGLADESH ENTRY TO UN. SUMMING UP, AHMED SAID PROPOSED POW TRIALS WERE QTE GUT ISSUE UNQTE WITH REGARD GOP RECOGNITION OF BDG. PERCY NOTED THAT HE HAD MET WITH FAMILIES OF PAK POWS IN WASHINGTON AND WOULD BE MEETING THEN AGAIN HERE THAT DAY. HE RECALLED RECENT CONVERSATION WITH INDIAN AMB IN WASHINGTON, WHOM HE HAD CHIDED OVER CONTINUED DETENTION OF PAK POWS WELL OVER YEAR AFTER WAR'S END. HE COMMENDED GOP FOR PROPOSAL TO SKIRT TRIALS ISSUE FOR TIME BEING AND FOR GETTING GREAT BULK OF DETAINEES RETURNED. PERCY SAID HE WAS INTERESTED IN AHMED'S COMMENT THAT THERE WAS NO SUBSTANTIAL POPULAR SENTIMENT IN BANGLADESH TO HOLD TRIALS. CHARGE INTERJECTED THAT IT WAS IMPRESSION OF OUR EMBASSY IN DACCA THAT THERE WAS INDEED CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC PRESSURE THERE TO HOLD TRIALS.

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3. RELATIONS WITH INDIA. AHMED SAID PAKISTAN WANTED TO LIVE IN PEACE WITH INDIA. GOP HAD GOTTEN IMPRESSION INDIA ALSO WANTS PEACE. PRIMIN GANDHI HAD TOLD PAKS AT SIMLA LAST YEAR THE GOI HAD COME TO CONCLUSION THAT QTE STRONG AND STABLE UNQTE PAKISTAN WAS IN INDIA'S INTEREST. GOP HOPED THIS CONSTITUTED BASIC CHANGE IN INDIAN POLICY. GOP WOULD LIKE TO MOVE AHEAD WITH NORMALIZATION AS ANTICIPATED AT SIMLA BUT THIS WAS BEING HELD UP BY POW

ISSUE. NOTING WITH SOME OBVIOUS SATISFACTION THAT INDIA SEEMED TO HAVE BECOME A BIT UNEASY OVER RELATIONSHIP WITH USSR, AHMED EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER SOVIET INVOLVEMENT AND INTENTIONS IN REGION. EVER SINCE 1971, SOVIET MILITARY SUPPLIES HAD CONTINUED TO FLOW IN SUBSTANTIAL VOLUME TO INDIA. MEANWHILE CURRENT INDIAN DEFENSE BUDGET WAS HIGHEST EVER, AND BULK OF INDIAN ARMY REMAINS JUST ACROSS PAK BORDER WHERE THEY APPARENTLY WILL BE BUILDING PERMANENT ACCOMMODATIONS.

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4. AFGHANISTAN. PERCY ASKED FOR GOP ASSESSMENT OF DAUD'S STATEMENTS ON PAKISTAN. AHMED SAID HE BELIEVED DAUD WILL HEAT UP PUKHTOONISTAN ISSUE. IF LEFT ALONE, PAKISTAN COULD HANDLE ISSUE WITH AFGHANISTAN. PROBLEM WAS RATHER ONE OF SOVIET SUPPORT FOR AFGHANS. RESPONDING PERCY QUERY, AHMED SAID GOP HAD NO HARD EVIDENCE OF SOVIET

INVOLVEMENT IN RECENT COUP. GOP HAD NOTED USG DOUBTS THIS QUESTION, BUT IT FEELS THERE WAS SOVIET INVOLVEMENT. PERCY NOTED THAT HE HAD LOOKED FOR EVIDENCE THIS SUBJECT WHEN IN AFGHANISTAN LAST WEEK, BUT HE HAD FOUND NONE. DAUD AND OTHERS HAD ASSURED HIM SOVIETS WERE NOT INVOLVED.

5. SOVIET INTENTIONS. AHMED SPOKE AT SOME LENGTH, ALONG HIS USUAL LINES, OF CONCERNS OVER SOVIET STRATEGIC CONFIDENTIAL

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INTENTIONS. SOVIETS SEEMED TO FEEL THAT TWO COUNTRIES, IRAN AND PAKISTAN, NEEDED TO BE SUBDUED SO AS TO PROMOTE SOV INTERESTS IN PERSIAN GULF/SOUTHERN ASIAN REGIONS. THEY HAD THUS BEEN SUPPLYING WEAPONS TO INDIANS, AFGHANS, AND IRAQIS. THEY WERE ALSO FOSTERING SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITY IN BALUCHISTAN (ALTHOUGH GOP HAD THUS FAR NOT FOUND SOPHISTICATED SOVIET ARMS THERE) AND WERE PROMOTING QTE PUKHTOONISTAN UNQTE PROPAGANDA. IT WAS HIS BELIEF, AHMED SAID, THAT SOVIETS WANT TO DIMINSH CHINESE INFLUENCE IN THIS REGION AND ALSO TO KEEP USG INFLUENCE LOW. HE REFERRED TO LONG-STANDING SOVIET INTEREST IN GETTING LAND ACCESS TO WARM WATERS OF ARABIAN SEA. AHMED THOUGHT IT SIGNIFICANT THAT SOVIETS HAD RAISED WITH PAKS, ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, PROPOSAL FOR ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY PACT. LAST TIME THIS HAD BEEN BROUGHT UP WAS ONLY LAST WEEK, WHEN SOVIET CHARGE HAD BEEN INFORMED THAT AHMED WAS PLANNING TO VISIT MOSCOW AND PEKING FOLLOWING FORTHCOMING INDO-PAK TALKS IN DELHI.

6. AHMED SAID HE THOUGHT USG HAD TO DECIDE WHERE ITS INTERESTS LAY IN THIS REGION. GOP WILL HAVE TO LIVE WITH USG DECISION. IN TIME, PAKISTAN MIGHT HAVE TO COME TO TERMS WITH USSR. CHINESE HELP TO PAKISTAN WAS VALUABLE BUT IT HAD ITS LIMIT. AHMED SAID QTE I HOPE YOU MAY COME TO CONCLUSION IT IS IN YOUR INTERESTS TO HELP PRESERVE COUNTRIES OF THIS REGION. UNQTE PERCY RESPONDED THAT USG IS REALISTIC CONCERNING SOVIETS. WE BELIEVE WE CAN DEAL WITH THEM ON DETENTE WHEN THEY CONSIDERED IT IN THEIR INTERESTS, BUT THERE ARE DEFINITE PRESSURES ON SOVIETS FOR DETENTE AND LIBERALIZATION. US HAD TO PROMOTE THOSE PRESSURES.

7. AHMED SAID PAKISTAN WANTED TO MAINTAIN AN ADEQUATE DETERRENT, DEFENSIVE MILITARY POSTURE. IT DOES NOT WANT US MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN REGION BUT NEEDS TO BE ABLE TO PROCURE DEFENSIVE CAPABILITY. WHEN AHMED WAS IN WASHINGTON SOME MONTHS AGO, MEMBERS OF HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HAD TOLD HIM THEY WERE SYMPATHETIC TO PAK MILITARY NEEDS, BUT A SENATOR HAD SAID US DID NOT

WANT TO PROMOTE ARMS RACE. NOR DID PAKISTAN WANT ARMS
RACE, BUT IT DID HAVE CERTAIN MINIMUM NEEDS. PAKISTAN
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COULD NOT BE SERIOUS THREAT TO INDIA. WHY WAS INDIA
CONTINUING TO ARM?

8. RESPONDING BRIEFLY TO ABOVE, PERCY RECALLED SHARP
INDIAN REACTIONS TO PAST US MILITARY SUPPLY OF PAKISTAN.
HE MIGHT WISH TO RAISE WITH INDIANS SOME OF POINTS
WHICH AHMED HAD JUST MADE. HE APPRECIATED AHMED'S FRANKNESS
AND THIS MIGHT HELP LAY BASIS FOR BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF PAK
PROBLEMS WHEN BHUTTO MEETS WITH SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS
COMMITTEE IN SEPTEMBER. PERCY THEN WENT ON TO STATE HIS
PERSONAL BELIEF THAT ITS INTERNAL SOLIDITY AND ECONOMIC
PROGRESS WOULD CONSTITUTE PAKISTAN'S BASIC STRENGTH
IN THE DECADE AHEAD. HE EXPRESSED ADMIRATION FOR PRES
BHUTTO'S EFFORTS AND SUCCESS IN MOVING COUNTRY FORWARD.

9. THIS MESSAGE HAD NOT BEEN SEEN BY SEN PERCY, WHO NOW TRAVELING
UP-COUNTRY AND UNAVAILABLE.
SOBER

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